

February 17, 2023

Subject: **Opposition to HB 5653**

Dear FR&B Committee Members,

I write to **strongly oppose HB 5653**.

There have been multiple failed attempts to further increase tax on ammunition purchases in the state of Connecticut. The reasoning behind this latest attempt is as deficient as all prior attempts.

If the state legislature wishes to combat suicides and crime, and I applaud them for that, they should find other ways to raise revenues or redirect existing funds towards this purpose.

This committee, and the state legislature, would be engaging in illegal, discriminatory, and utterly unconstitutional law making if this attempt were successful. Please, do not forget that acquisition of ammunition for lawful purposes is protected under the Second Amendment. Why would the legislature choose to disproportionately tax a right that is enumerated in our Bill of Rights?

Ammunition is already taxed at 11%, in addition to sales tax. How much more tax is enough?

Even if this were to become law, it will be defeated in the courts. Therefore, I urge you to not waste your precious time, and our precious tax contributions by engaging in ill-conceived law making. The legislative session is short, please use it to improve the financial condition of our state instead.

Thank you for the consideration.

Stav Nat